



ORD's Office of Science Policy Hazardous Substances Technical Liaison Program

Factsheet

The Program

The Hazardous Substances Technical Liaison Program (HSTLP) was created to:

- Station a Hazardous Substances Technical Liaison (HSTL) in each region to facilitate access to ORD laboratories, national centers, and ORD Headquarters.
- Provide and facilitate ORD's technical support programs in regional Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) programs.
- Promote the use of sound science and engineering in regional decision making in the OSWER programs.

The program was created jointly by ORD, OSWER, and the regional offices in 1990 to expand the technical support available to regional staff. It is managed within ORD's Office of Science Policy (OSP) in Headquarters. The name of the program was changed in 2001 (from "Superfund Technical Liaison Program" or STLP) to reflect that it assists other programs focusing on hazardous substances and/or hazardous wastes as well as Superfund.

Technical Liaisons are ORD senior scientists and engineers located in the regional Superfund offices. They interact on a daily basis with Superfund Remedial Project Managers (RPMs), On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs), Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Project Managers, Federal Facility Project Managers, regional management, and other regional scientists and engineers. The Liaisons foster communications—especially the transfer of scientific and engineering products—between ORD laboratories and the regions. They also provide direct assistance by applying their expertise in a variety of areas.

Goals and Activities

Goal 1—Facilitate the incorporation of sound science and technology into regional environmental management decisions and actions:

- Coordinate and provide project-specific technical assistance and advice to regional staff and management (e.g., review of site-specific technology applications).
- Provide technical support and training to the regional OSWER staff and management.
- Organize workshops and other means to address major science and technology issues of high priority to the regions (e.g., Decision Support Tools Workshop and Natural Attenuation of Groundwater Contamination Workshop).
- Assist ORD in providing program support to OSWER to promote the use of sound science in environmental decision making in the OSWER programs.

Goal 2—Facilitate the planning and implementation of ORD's research and technical support programs to support and assist the OSWER programs:

- Ensure integrated regional input to ORD research plans and products relevant to Superfund and RCRA.
- Inform regional staff of ORD technical support capabilities, facilitate interactions to provide assistance from ORD's national laboratories and centers, and match requests for technical support with the most appropriate resource.
- Convey ORD information to regional technical staff (e.g., providing information via regional computer networks and personal contacts, announcing the availability of new ORD products), and establish focal points for the distribution of ORD products.

Goal 3—Provide feedback to ORD Laboratories, ORD National Centers, and ORD Headquarters on how to improve regional products and services:

- Provide recommendations to ORD to maximize the utility of ORD products and services to the regions, especially those products that can be applied to the current environmental problems related to OSWER programs.
- Advise ORD regarding the need for regional training, and participate in organizing ORD seminars and workshops.
- Facilitate regional testing of ORD products.

Goal 4—Build ORD-supported technical capacity in the regional OSWER programs:

- Assist in the OSWER training for regional personnel.
- Facilitate the acquisition and utilization of technical tools and information.
- Help establish and or support intra-regional networks of scientists and engineers to promote the dissemination and use of technical tools and information.

Goal 5—Facilitate interactions with other organizations involved in environmental research:

- Although ORD is the focus of environmental research within the EPA, significant environmental research is performed by other organizations; HSTLs should interact with those organizations that best serve regional priorities and promote technology transfer.

OSP Regional Programs

OSP oversees the HSTLP and the Regional Science Liaison Program. HSTLs work with the Regional Science Liaisons on cross-program issues with the Regional Science Councils. These combined OSP programs strengthen scientific and technical cooperation between ORD, the regions, and state and local governments.

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More Information

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